

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:SNAR, CH, TW

SUBJECT:THE PRC AND ILLICIT NARCOTICS

REF: A) TAIPEI 7727; B) TAIPEI 041

1. EDITORIALS DESCRIBED REFTELS MISQUOTED U.S. GOVERNMENT
PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO CHINA AND DRUGS, AND PRESENT AN
ERRONEOUS INTERPRETATION OF THE FACTS.

2. EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY ADVISED THE GROC THAT
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THIS KIND OF MISLEADING INFORMATION IS IN NEITHER THE U.S.
NOR THE ROC INTEREST. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, ANOTHER
REMINDER IS NECESSARY.

3. FOLLOWING BELOW IS THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE ON THIS
SUBJECT FOR EMBASSY DISTRIBUTION.

BEGIN TEXT: RECENTLY EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED IN TAIPEI NEWSPAPERS WHICH ALLEGE THAT A U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY HAS IMPLICATED THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRADE. THESE EDITORIALS MISCONSTRUE THE ACTUAL FACTS AS PRESENTED IN THE CITED DOCUMENT, AND MAKE UNSUPPORTED STATEMENTS WHICH CAN EASILY BE MISINTERPRETED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

THE DOCUMENT QUOTED IN THESE RECENT EDITORIALS WAS AN UNCLASSIFIED SPECIAL REPORT ENTITLED "CHINA AND DRUGS" WHICH DISCUSSED THE TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTICS PRODUCED IN EAST ASIA. THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED BY THE STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF THE U.S. BUREAU OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS (BNDD) IN 1972. THE RELEVANT PORTION OF THIS REPORT ACTUALLY READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE PRIME MOVERS IN ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION ARE ETHNIC OVERSEAS CHINESE. VARIOUS LINGUISTIC GROUPS TEND TO DOMINATE PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE TRAFFIC. THE YUNNANESE ARE PREDOMINANT IN ORGANIZING OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION IN NORTHERN BURMA AND IN TRANSPORTATION OF THE GUM BY CARAVAN TO THE BURMA/LAOS/THAILAND BORDER AREA, KNOWN AS THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE."

THIS REPORT CONCLUDED THAT "NOT ONE INVESTIGATION INTO HEROIN TRAFFIC IN THE AREA DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS
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INDICATES CHINESE COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT."

A LATER REPORT BY THE SUCCESSOR TO THE BNDD, THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, ENTITLED "THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND NARCOTIC DRUGS" SIMILARLY STATES: "THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SANCTIONS THE ILLICIT EXPORT OF OPIUM OR OPIUM PRODUCTS, OR IS INVOLVED IN ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS." THIS REPORT CONCLUDES THAT "THE INVOLVEMENT OF ETHNIC CHINESE OUTSIDE THE PRC IN THE DRUG TRAFFIC IS WELL-ESTABLISHED, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THIS FACT IN PART CONTRIBUTES TO THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT THE PRC IS EXPLOITING DRUGS."

THE MAJOR KINGPINS OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN THE CULTIVATION, TRANSPORTATION AND REFINING OF OPIUM ARE ETHNIC OVERSEAS CHINESE WHO LIVE IN THE BORDER AREA OF BURMA AND THAILAND. SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO HOLD REPUBLIC OF CHINA PASSPORTS.
END TEXT.

4. COPIES OF THE TWO REPORTS, NEITHER OF WHICH IS DATED,

HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO EMBASSY TAIPEI. CHRISTOPHER

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